# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

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LWVWV [www.lwvwv.org](http://www.lwvwv.org) LWVUS [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Mark Your Calendar

 Monday, Sept. 23 7 pm Membership Meeting

 See below

September 17 is Constitution Day

September 24 is National Voter Registration Day

Monday, Oct. 14 7 pm LWVWC Board Meeting

Monday, Oct. 28 7 pm Membership Meeting (see p. 2)

**September Meeting**

**Affordable Health Care Update**

**What has it meant so far?**

**what will it mean in coming months?**

 **Monday, Sept. 23, 7 pm, Vienna Library**

**Speaker: Renate Pore**

**from West Virginians for Affordable Health Care**

Starting in October the uninsured can purchase insurance through the WV Health Insurance Marketplace, where approved private health insurance products are sold to individuals and families. The SHOP Marketplace is designed to allow small businesses, those with fewer than 50 full-time equivalent employees, the option of purchasing group health insurance for themselves and their employees.

Medicaid has been expanded to more persons with low incomes. The Office of the Insurance Commissioner has projected that the number of West Virginians without health insurance could be reduced from 246,000 to 76,000 within three years.

Hear more about what the Affordable Care Act *really* does and does not mean for all Americans.

This meeting is open to the public, so please invite interested friends.

Voter

 September 2013

Suppressing the Vote

From LWVUS

Excerpt from 9/5/13 Leaders’ Update, Elisabeth MacNamara

Fifty years ago, Jim Crow laws were naked, unapologetic barriers to voting. Today, new voter suppression laws, what the Reverend Al Sharpton refers to as James Crow, Jr., Esq., are presented as common sense protection of the election process or as sensible cost saving measures. Since [the Supreme Court effectively ended preclearance](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252F%252Fsalsa.wiredforchange.com%252Fdia%252Ftrack.jsp%253Fv%253D2%2526c%253DExDNb1HAVWqj6WssY28Rnfg8QlQdNlmQ&hmac=c46a4f2b86d10e66ad154b4eb5db64ad) of the laws of certain jurisdictions by the Department of Justice (DOJ) through the Voting Rights Act (VRA), state governments have rushed to implement restrictive voter photo ID, proof of citizenship and cutbacks in early voting. [These laws](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252F%252Fsalsa.wiredforchange.com%252Fdia%252Ftrack.jsp%253Fv%253D2%2526c%253DToNsYqzuMqkidHVCjf%25252Fb2fg8QlQdNlmQ&hmac=67e1b9e79f9b2d3c77400a25efac899f) have received much media attention and [the DOJ is intervening in states like Texas](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252F%252Fsalsa.wiredforchange.com%252Fdia%252Ftrack.jsp%253Fv%253D2%2526c%253DzHN71Tak%25252BgzSDbUcHKC3xfg8QlQdNlmQ&hmac=304c8f6587b74d9db39b9d9fe1c76837) using the remaining remedies available under the VRA.

Getting less attention are local changes that could have dramatic impact on access to the polls. A recent example comes from Carroll County, Georgia where the County Registrar and County Commission had agreed to reduce the number of polling places from six to three. Carroll County, west of Atlanta and almost on the Georgia/Alabama line, is also the home of the University of West Georgia. While the Commission and the Registrar promised opportunities for public comment, the reduction in polling sites popped up on the commission agenda without any comment period. [Fortunately for the voters in Carroll County, the League of Women Voters of Carrollton-Carroll County was paying attention](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252F%252Fsalsa.wiredforchange.com%252Fdia%252Ftrack.jsp%253Fv%253D2%2526c%253DCLKSJ8b%25252F%25252B%25252F48Gu8sNci2uPg8QlQdNlmQ&hmac=efaf067f6a2f24d2afdb1b9e775c7a02). Rallying local partners, the League insisted that the Commission reconsider this decision. After discussions with city and county officials, the Commission agreed to stop plans for consolidation of polling sites.

ACTION: Write, call, or email Representative David McKinley and Senators Rockefeller and Manchin and tell them you want Congress to fix the Voting Rights Act and restore protections to that assure that everyone who is eligible is able to vote. See [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) for an easy way to send a message.

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**Election Reform** From [www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org)

During recent testimony at a Presidential Election Commission public hearing on improving voting in America, a representative of the Brennan Center for Justice testified, recommending the following reforms:

**Modernize voter registration.** Using electronic systems, including online registration, would modernize, simplify, and enhance the security of registration and voter rolls.

**Expand early voting.** With several states getting rid of early voting, the Brennan Center recommends making the polls more accessible to eligible voters — not less.

**Improve polling place resource management.** To prevent hours-long waits and ensure each site is well-equipped to serve voters, voting sites should have a minimum standard for the number of machines and workers needed.

**Simplify ballots and voting machines.** Complicated ballots and broken machines have caused serious problems at the polls. Voters should have access to simple ballots with clear instructions and machines that work.



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Drive

Vienna WV 26105

**Meeting September 23**

**Affordable Health Care Update**

**September 2013 Voter**

Membership in the LWV is open to all citizens of

voting age. To join the LWVWC, send a check

payable to LWVWC for $40 ($60 for 2 people at

one address) to the LWVWC Treasurer, 1 Fox Hill Dr.,

Parkersburg WV 26104 Write “dues” on the memo line.

**Upcoming Meeting on October 28 – Mineral Fund**

 Also called Legacy Fund or Future Fund – Should WV follow the example of some other states in establishing a fund into which a portion of state revenues from natural resource extraction is locked away until a future date, in anticipation of the time when the resource is depleted?

A WV delegation recently visited North Dakota to learn about its fund. Proposals have been introduced in WV in recent years but the legislature has not adopted a plan. Plan to attend and learn more.

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**The LWVWC Board has voted to endorse passage of renewal of the excess levy**, for which the Wood County Board of Education has set an election on Saturday, November 23.

The levy provides funds not covered by the state aid formula for staff and employee benefits, maintenance and operations of buildings, transportation, school supplies, WVU Extension, and libraries. The levy rate will remain the same as that currently in effect.

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 Copies of our new League publication about recycling in Wood County are available for distribution. If you would like some to distribute to a group to which you belong or leave at a location we may not have thought of, contact Nancy Taylor nan53@suddenlink.net